Possibility of misuse of voting machines

†2201. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever received any complaint regarding tampering with the voting machines;

(b) whether there is a possibility of any misuse of the voting machines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have made a complete check up of the voting machines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Election Commission of India has intimated that prior to use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in any elections, First Level Check are made by the manufacturing firms *i.e.* M/s Bharat Electronics Limited, Hyderabad and M/s Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Bangalore, as the case may be.

In addition, the following mechanical/physical protections are incorporated in the EVM to protect any unauthorized interference during the course of election:

(a) Unique machine number for every EVM.

(b) Multilevel thread sealing of various compartments/sections as shown under:

(i) Sealing by Returning Officer

1. Thread seal for the "Candidate Set" and Power Pack Section of Control Unit.

2. Thread seal for Ballot paper screen.

3. Two thread seals for Ballot cover.

(ii) Sealed by the Presiding Officer

1. Green paper seal for result section

2. Thread seal for inner door of result section

3. Thread seal for entire result section followed by Outer Paper Strip Seal.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Further, a Committee of Experts constituted by the Government of India in April, 1990, consisting of Prof. P.V. Indirasan, Dr. C. Rao Kasarbada and Prof. Sampath has given its unanimous report that these machines cannot be tampered. Many Courts including Supreme Court have time and again appreciated the efficiency of EVM in many court cases.

Increase in strength of judges

2202. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court had directed the Central and State Governments, in 2005, to increase the strength of judges from 13,000 to 60,000 in five years;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government and the State Governments, so far;

(c) the details of strength of judges throughout the country during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, State-wise;

(d) whether it is also a fact that nearly three crore cases are still pending for a long time;

(e) whether Government would assure release of special budget immediately to every State for increasing the strength of judges on a war-footing; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Details of Judge Strength at various High Courts is given in Statement-I (*See* below). With regard to judge strength in District/Subordinate Courts, this Department is not maintaining any data as the matter falls under the purview of the concerned State Government and the High Court. However, as per available information, details of Judge Strength at District/Subordinate Court level as on 1.1.2006 is given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal for release of special budget to any State for supporting increase in judge strength.

Statement-I

Details of Judge strength at various High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Sanctioned Strength as on 1.1.2007	Sanctioned Strength as on 1.1.2006	Sanctioned Strength as on 1.1.2005	Sanctioned Strength as on 1.1.2004
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Allahabad	95	95	95	72